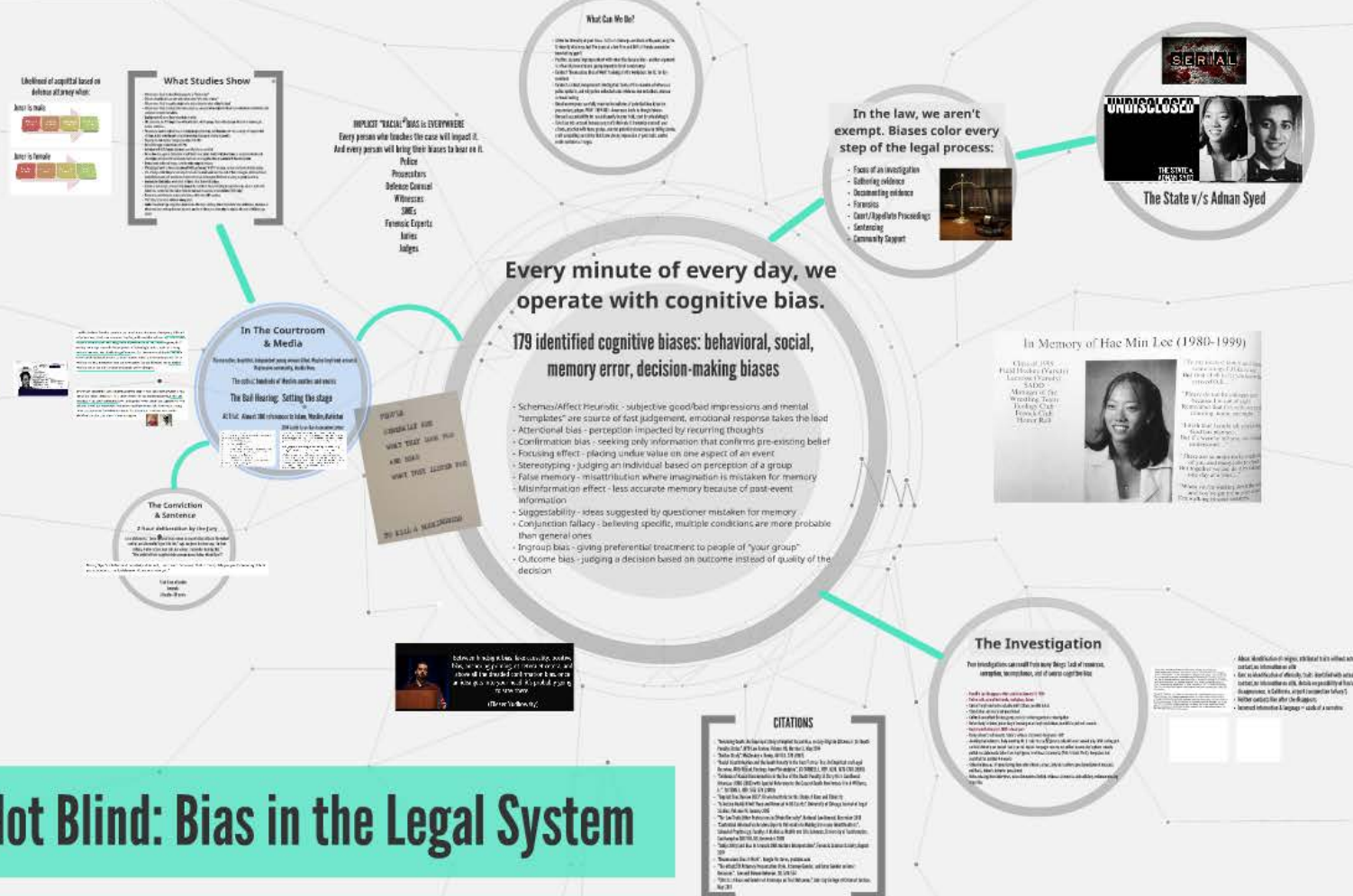


The Law is Not Blind: Bias in the Legal System





Between hindsight bias, fake causality, positive bias, anchoring priming, et cetera et cetera, and above all the dreaded confirmation bias, once an idea gets into your head, it's probably going to stay there.

(Eliezer Yudkowsky)

SMS
Forensic Experts
Juries
Judges

• Court/Appellate Proceedings
• Sentencing
• Community Support



Every minute of every day, we operate with cognitive bias.

179 identified cognitive biases: behavioral, social, memory error, decision-making biases

- Schemas/Affect Heuristic - subjective good/bad impressions and mental "templates" are source of fast judgement, emotional response takes the lead
- Attentional bias - perception impacted by recurring thoughts
- Confirmation bias - seeking only information that confirms pre-existing belief
- Focusing effect - placing undue value on one aspect of an event
- Stereotyping - judging an individual based on perception of a group
- False memory - misattribution where imagination is mistaken for memory
- Misinformation effect - less accurate memory because of post-event information
- Suggestability - ideas suggested by questioner mistaken for memory
- Conjunction fallacy - believing specific, multiple conditions are more probable than general ones
- Ingroup bias - giving preferential treatment to people of "your group"
- Outcome bias - judging a decision based on outcome instead of quality of the decision

PEOPLE
GENERALLY SEE
WHAT THEY LOOK FOR
AND HEAR
WHAT THEY LISTEN FOR

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

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[eSupplement to the 2018 Robert O. Dawson Conference on Criminal Appeals](#)

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